

4th April to 23rd April 1983

Dublin Grand Opera Society

Presents

International Opera Season

TONIGHT

RIGOLETTO

(Verdi)

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SOUTH KING STREET, DUBLIN 2

Telegrams: Gaiety Theatre Telephone: 771717

Directors:

Eamonn Andrews, Lorcan Bourke, Dermod Cafferky, Joe Kearns, Resident Manager: Joe Kearns

COMMENCING MONDAY 4th APRIL 1983.

NIGHTLY 7.30

## **Dublin Grand Opera Society**

## presents International Opera Season

MANON LESCAUT (PUCCINI) (in Italian)

RIGOLETTO (VERDI) (in Italian)

MADAMA BUTTERFLY (PUCCINI) (in Italian)

ANDREA CHÉNIER (GIORDANO) (in Italian)

#### **GUEST ARTISTES**

Miciè Akisada, Doro Antonioli, Patricia Bardon, Anna Caleb, Brendan Cavanagh, Miguel Chimienti, Marta Colalillo, Dublin City Ballet, Andrea Elena, Therese Feighan, Maria Luisa Garbato, Peter McBrien, Herman Malamood, Seán Mitten, Licinio Montefusco, Frank O'Brien, Attilio D'Orazi, Franco Pugliese, Peter Richfield, Susanna Rigacci, Mary Sheridan.

Conductors: Napoleone Annovazzi, Bruno Rigacci, Takuo Yuasa.

Producers: Dario Micheli, Paddy Ryan, Loris Solenghi.

Asso. Producer: Raymond Yeats

Designers: Dario Micheli, Elena Tatulli.

Stage Director: Patrick McClellan.

Asst. Stage Director: Josephine Scanlon.

Chorus Masters: John Brady, Riccardo Bottino.

Choreographer: Babil Gandara.

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Latecomers will not be seated during music. The management reserve the right to make unavoidable alterations without notice.

## **RIGOLETTO**

(Giuseppe Verdi, 1813-1901)

This opera was composed by the 38-year old Verdi for the Fenice Theatre, Venice, where it had its première in March, 1851. It was the first of his long series of world successes and remains firmly in the repertory as one of the most popular of all operas. The libretto by Francesco Maria Piave is an adaptation of Hugo's "Le Rois' amuse". To satisfy the strict Austrian censorship of the day, which would not tolerate a public representation of attempted regicide, the plot was transferred from the Court of France to the ducal palace at Mantua.

#### ACT I

After a short orchestral prelude the curtain rises on a ball in the ducal palace. The dissolute Duke of Mantua enters telling a courtier, Borza, of his latest infatuation — this time with an unknown girl whom he has noticed in church every feast day. Just now, however, he is openly fliratious with the Countess Ceprano to the obvious annovance of her husband. In the flippant aria Questa o quella ("This one or that one") the Duke declares that all women are fair game to him if only they are pretty. Ceprano is taunted by Rigoletto, the Court jester, a hunchback, whose privileged gibes all the courtiers must endure. Cynically Rigoletto suggests to the Duke that the affair with the Countess would be furthered if the husband were made away with. Rigoletto wanders off and Marullo amuses the others with the story that the buffoon has an innamorata! In this they see a chance of revenge on their tormentor. Now Monterone forces his way in to denounce the Duke, whose latest victim was the old man's daughter. He too is cruelly mocked by Rigoletto, but before being hurried away the old man launches a father's curse on the hunchback, who is left cringing in superstitious fear.

#### ACT II. Scene 1

The double setting shows a street and, opening off it, the courtyard of Rigoletto's house wherein his treasured daughter Gilda is kept in strict seclusion. Rigoletto enters still brooding on Monterone's curse which haunts his mind. He is thinking of the daughter whom the courtiers think to be his mistress. A sinister figure emerges from the shadows. It is Sparafucile, a professional assassin. To Sparafucile's offer of services at a reasonable fee Rigoletto replies he has no present need for them. Alone, in the splendid aria *Pari siamo*, his jesting thrown aside, Rigoletto reflects bitterly on his deformity and the ignominy of his employment in the Duke's household. A very moving duet ensues between Gilda and himself in which memories of her dead mother are recalled. But the Duke has discovered Gilda's dwelling to which he now gains entry while Rigoletto is still asleep in the house by bribing Giovanna, Gilda's duenna. He remains concealed in the courtyard. As he leaves, Rigoletto cautions

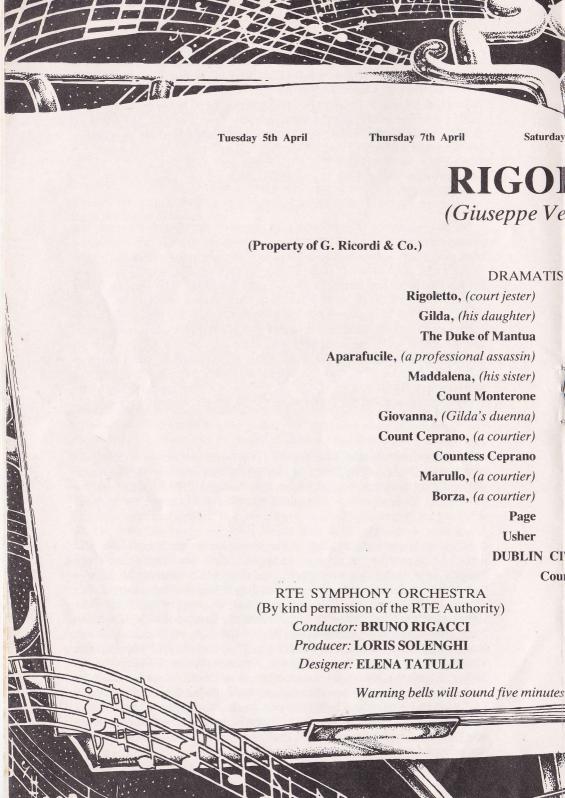
Giovanna once more to guard his treasured Gilda well. When he has gone, the Duke emerges to tell Gilda that he is Gualtier Maldè, the supposed student whom she has often noticed in the church. A love duet follows, E il sol dell' amima. The Duke departs and in the coloratura aria Caro nome the young girl muses on her first love. Outside, the courtiers are gathering for the abduction that Ceprano has planned for his revenge. By means of a trick Rigoletto, blinfolded, is involved in the escapade, not suspecting its purpose. When he discovers the outrage he recalls Monterone's curse and the curtain falls to his anguished cry La maledizione!

#### ACT III,

In the romance *Parmi veder le lagrime* the Duke laments the disappearance of Gilda. The courtiers, however, come to tell him of the trick played on Rigoletto and that Gilda is already in the palace. After the Duke's exit, in search of Gilda, Rigoletto appears distractedly searching for his daughter suspecting her to be with the Duke. His appeals to the courtiers are received with jeers until they realise the girl they have abducted is not his mistress but his daughter. When the distraught Gilda rushes in Rigoletto, suddenly invested with great dignity, inveighs against the baseness of these courtiers and furiously orders them from his presence, *Corteggiani vil razza dannata*. Intimidated by the change in Rigoletto, the courtiers go and Rigoletto hears from his daughter the story of her abduction. The Act concludes in a blazing duet, Rigoletto vowing vengeance on the Duke while Gilda, fearful for her lover seeks to soften his anger.

#### ACT IV

Another double scene; Sparafucile's lonely inn and beside it the banks of the river Mincio. The Duke has found another charmer, Maddalena, the sister of Sparafucile. Rigoletto has brought Gilda to witness for herself her lover's perfidy. Disguised this time as a soldier, the Duke is drinking and gambling. Debonairly he sings of the fickleness of women. La donna è mobile. This aria leads into the great quartet. At its conclusion Rigoletto, sending Gilda away, summons Sparafucile and hires him to murder the stranger in the inn, the body to be delivered to himself in a sack. A storm comes up. The Duke decides to remain overnight at the inn. Maddalena who has fallen for the young man's charm, endeavours to dissuade her brother, suggesting that if he substituted another victim he might claim the reward. Gilda has stolen back and overhearing the conversation of the pair, resolves to save her lover by exchanging her own life for his. Thus it is she who becomes the victim and it is her body, enclosed in the sack that is delivered to her father, Rigoletto, his vengeance satisfied, as he thinks, is about to consign his burden to the river when the voice of the Duke reaches him in a reprise of La donna è mobile. He tears open the sack and the dying Gilda is revealed to him. With her last breath she begs forgiveness for her lover and herself. The opera ends with the crashing chords of the curse — La maledizione — which has exacted the full penalty.





9th April

Tuesday 12th April

Friday 15th April

## LETTO rdi 1813-1901)

Libretto by Francesco Maria Piave from Victor Hugo's "Le Roi s'amuse"

## **PERSONAE**

LICINIO MONTEFUSCO

SUSANNA RIGACCI

ANDREA ELENA

FRANCO PUGLIESE

PATRICIA BARDON

PETER McBRIEN

DYMPNA CARNEY

NOEL O'CALLAGHAN

MONICA CONDRON

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**BRENDAN CAVANAGH** 

ANNE DEEGAN

TOM CARNEY

TY BALLET

rtiers

Scenery built and painted by

MICHAEL DEEGAN and JULIAN ERSKINE

Choreographer: BABIL GANDARA

Costumes by CASA STRINGANO, Bari

and two minutes before rise of curtain.

### **Synopsis of Scenes**

The Scene is set in Mantua in the Sixteenth Century

Act I
A Ball in the Duke's Palace

Interval 15 minutes

Act II
A Street outside Rigoletto's house

Interval 15 minutes

Act III
A hall in the Palace

Interval 15 minutes

Act IV
A derelict inn on the banks of the River Mincio

Rigoletto was first performed at the Fenice Theatre, Venice, on 11th March, 1851

## **For Gaiety Theatre**

Stage Manager, Paddy Jones Asst. Stage Manager, George McFall Chief Electrician, Sean Burke

The public may leave at the end of the performance by all Exit doors. Persons shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or sit in any of the other gangways.

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## We'd like to propose a toast.

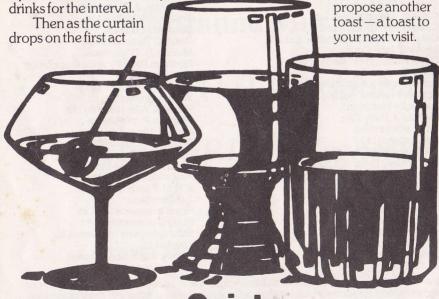
A toast to an enjoyable visit to the Gaiety.

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After the show our bars remain open, so you can enjoy further relaxation in congenial company.

And perhaps propose another toast—a toast to vour next visit.



Gaiety